



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WALKER STATEMENT ON SALES TAX REFERENDUM PROPOSAL

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker issued the following statement regarding the Milwaukee County Board’s proposal for an advisory referendum on levying an additional 1% sales tax increase:

“My objection to the \$120 million sales tax increase is based on two issues: jobs and truth.

Sending out the message that taxes will go up \$120 million in the county will drive more jobs and more residents out of the county. This is a job killer.

And the truth is that the \$120 million sales tax increase will not lower property taxes or directly aid parks and transit. In 1991, the county board passed a .5% sales tax increase with the promise of property tax relief. From 1992 to 2002, property taxes went up 55%.

Additionally, tax levy support for the parks dropped during that time. In 1980, tax levy support for the parks was 45% of the budget. By 2000, it had dropped below 10%.

Sales tax increases in the past have not gone to property tax relief and they will not go directly to parks or transit; they will go largely to cover increases in pensions, health care benefits and state mandates. The public wants us to provide core services without looking for ways to create new taxes.

We don’t need a \$120 million tax increase.”

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